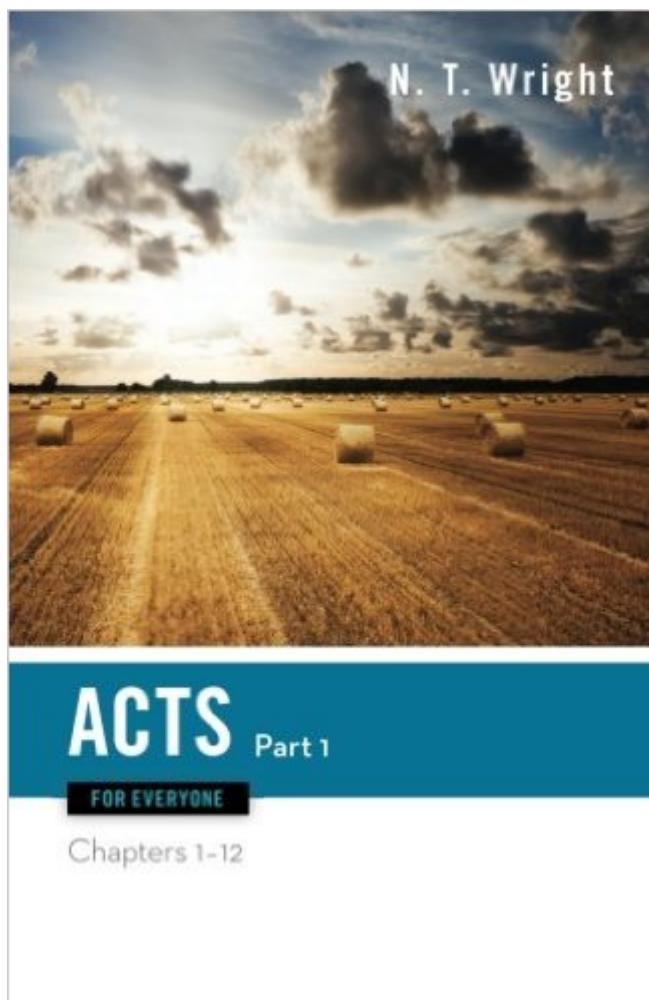


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Acts For Everyone, Part One: Chapters 1-12 (The New Testament For Everyone)



Synopsis

Writing in an accessible and anecdotal style, Tom Wright helps us to approach the rich and many-sided story of the book of Acts. Wright shows how the book builds on Luke's Gospel, laying out the continuing work and teaching of the now risen and ascended Jesus in the power of the Spirit. His writing captures the vivid way in which Luke's work draws us all into the story, while leaving the ending open and challenging, inviting Christians today to pick up and carry on the story as we in turn live our lives in the service of Jesus. Tom Wright has undertaken a tremendous task: to provide guides to all the books of the New Testament and to include in them his own translation of the entire text. Each short passage is followed by a highly readable discussion with background information, useful explanations and suggestions, and thoughts as to how the text can be relevant to our lives today. A glossary is included at the back of the book. The series is suitable for group study, personal study, or daily devotions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For those unfamiliar with Wright's "____ for Everyone" series, they are a series of commentaries on the New Testament books by Bishop Wright based on his extensive historical scholarship. He provides his own translation (based on his study of the source languages) which is a very engaging paraphrase. The text is divided up into chronological topic-based segments, followed by a 2-3 page

sermonette/commentary based on that section. This volume covers chapters 1-12 of the Book of Acts. Wright says that this book is Luke's "Acts of Jesus II" - to correspond to the "Acts of Jesus I" (the Gospel of Luke). Acts is "a play in which we are invited to become actors ourselves." (p. 3) Of Wright's commentaries, this edition is unique in that many sections are illustrated with maps to show the areas mentioned and the direction of travel. This helps to give the reader an overview of the formation of the church, starting in Jerusalem at Pentecost, as the believers sell their possessions and practice communal living, and expand to Caesarea and Ethiopia. There is a magnificent exposition of Paul's Damascus Road experience in Acts 9, as well as "Dorcas Christians" who humbly serve others in the name of Christ. Wright's translation of Acts gives a fresh rendering which reads like a novel. You will want to have Volume 2 on hand when you finish this one.

Our Bible study at church selected this. I knew Wright was a bible scholar, as well as an Anglican Bishop, just a little to the right of center theologically (as I consider Marcus Borg a bit to the left of center). What I didn't realize is the humor with which he writes at times, making this book of the Bible so applicable to the church and to Christians today. The Bible study class has enjoyed it so much that we unanimously decided to continue with Part 2. Though it seems to be divided into chunks that are easily read and perused in a day, our study only manages to get through about 3 of them per week, as they provide so much food for thought and conversation. We don't always agree with Wright, and sometimes check his translation with one of the standard translations of the Bible (they always coincide, of course) - but we never run out of conversation about this book!

NT Wright, one of the theological giants of our time, has produced yet again a concise view of the Apostles' world in a historical context. At the same time, each point has a contemporary example of how the theology has played out in Wright's experiences. This is the fifth series we have used in Sunday School.

Insightful and thought-provoking comments on Acts 1-12 parallel the author's own readable translation of the Bible text. Background information about the scriptures, helpful explanations about its meanings, and discussion of how it can be relevant to lives today are woven together seamlessly in the author's inviting style. This book includes a glossary.

I have not found a "For Everyone" volume that I haven't liked. As pastor primarily using more exegetical commentaries to prepare lessons, I often find usable material in this series. More often I

am simply enriched by reading them, and this volume is no exception. I recommend them without reservation to people of every (or no) academic background.

We are using the Study Guide in a small group Bible Study. *Acts for Everyone* is just that, an extremely readable and yet theologically profound look at what happens after Jesus' ascension and how the Holy Spirit equips the apostles--and us--to bring the promise of the gospel to **EVERYONE**. This book, and its companion, *Acts for Everyone, Part 2*, can be read on its own (the text of *Acts* is at the beginning of each chapter) or as a companion to the Study Guide.

I really liked it, enough to order part two. I do believe him when he insists he is a Trinitarian. Much more orthodox than I expect from the Church of England these days. Though I do wonder why he writes *Holy Spirit* in small letters? The only point I found distracting.

NT Wright is insightful and fresh in this commentary on *Acts*. He helps readers to catch the enthusiasm of the early church as it began, catching the powerful experience of *God With Us* as the Holy Spirit empowered those who only a few weeks before were timid and scared to death.

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